



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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M/003/031

February 20, 1996

William and Preston Bown
Utah Building Stone Supply
842 West 400 North
West Bountiful, Utah 84087

Dear Messrs Bown:

Re: Status of the Grouse Creek Quarry, M/003/031, Box Elder County, Utah

(Feb 14, 1996)

Thank you for coming in to meet with my staff and Bureau of Land Management personnel to discuss the recent reviews of the mining notices submitted for the Dove Creek and Grouse Creek quarries. At this time, we would like to formally respond to your letter received on February 7, 1996, regarding the Grouse Creek operation.

The Division agrees that the circumstances surrounding the Grouse Creek operation are somewhat different from a typical stone quarrying operation. However, it is not all that unique from other mining operations in Utah. You have expressed considerable concern over our inclusion of several roads in the overall road 'network' surrounding the Grouse Creek quarrying area, as part of your mining operation. We agree with you that there is incidental use of a number of these roads by others for grazing, hunting and other recreational purposes. Most of these roads may have been in existence for many years before the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act became effective (1975). However, a significant number of the roads appear to have been created to access the quarry areas and are still used for this purpose.

As you will recall, the BLM and the Division met onsite with you last summer and traveled many of the roads in this area. After the BLM and Division prepared maps of the area, we sat down jointly with you and reviewed the maps. We reached agreement as to which roads were primarily used by you for your operation and which roads were principally used by others for different purposes.

During our February 14th meeting, you raised questions and voiced objections to being held responsible for the reclamation of some of these roads. You asked about BLM and DOGM policy regarding when pre-law roads need to be included in a mining operation. Also, the question was raised that while some of the roads were created to access quarry areas in the 1960's, will other multiple use interests (grazing and hunting, etc.) need these roads to continue their activities post mining? This question was not addressed during our site visit.

Depending on how many of these existing roads we can agree should remain unreclaimed after mining, this could reduce the total disturbed acreage to below 5 acres and thus qualify this as a small



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mining operation. The requirement to post reclamation surety for this operation would be subsequently eliminated. As you know, the Division has established a deadline of February 26, 1996 to submit an interim bond for this operation until the overall permitting is finalized.

As a result of our Grouse Creek Quarry discussions on February 14th, the Division will temporarily postpone its requirement to post an interim surety, until such time that the road status questions are resolved. If it is eventually determined that the affected area still exceeds 5 acres, then a new deadline to post a reclamation surety will be established. We will contact you to schedule a joint DOGM/BLM site inspection to review the roads in question, and determine the extent of your road reclamation obligations. We anticipate this site visit will occur in late April or early May, depending on weather conditions.

Thank you again for coming in and discussing your permitting concerns with us. If you have any additional questions or concerns in this regard, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Sincerely,



D. Wayne Hedberg
Permit Supervisor
Minerals Regulatory Program

jb
cc: Mike Ford, BLM, Pony Express RA
M003031.let